

Si desea solicitar este boletín en Español por favor envíenos un email a district5@sanjoseca.gov

June 2015 Newsletter

Office of Councilmember Magdalena Carrasco

Eastside San José



Dear Neighbor,

In honor of the up-coming June 21 holiday, I want to dedicate this newsletter to all the fathers and those who acted as a second father or surrogate father in our lives.

It is easy to take for granted those who have supported, guided and unconditionally loved us throughout our lives, but this month is a great excuse to remind ourselves that without these great cheerleaders in our corner we would not be where we are today.

I lost my father two years ago and there is not a day that goes by where I don't miss him deeply. Although he is no longer with me, his values and principles of

hard work, family and integrity are with me always. My children are a constant reminder of him and I hope to instill in my children the legacy of their grandfather. I also would like to share with all of you some of the lessons that he taught me; live a life of good deeds because only when you do no harm or owe no one can you sleep soundly at night, protect your family and always carry \$5 in your pocket.

So please to take a moment to call or visit those father figures in your lives and thank them with immense love and appreciation.

Happy Father's Day!

Have a Fun and Safe July 4th

Summer is here and folks are already planning their Independence Day celebrations. We want to take this time to remind everyone that it is illegal to use fireworks, sparklers, or even State-approved fireworks in San Jose or Santa Clara County.

Did you know:

- More fires are reported on the 4th of July than any other day of the year, and more than

half of those fires are caused by fireworks

- A sparkler can reach 1,000 degrees, causing serious burns and injury especially to children who are more likely to use sparklers
- In our dry climate (made worse by our multi-year drought), the spark from a firework is all that's necessary to burn thousands of acres and engulf a home in flames.

So, make sure that you and your family aren't buying or lighting any fireworks this year. Share this information with your friends and neighbors to spare them the safety concerns and the fines from the municipal code violations.

Instead, gather with your friends and family and attend one of the many professionally presented fireworks displays being put on locally.

If we all work together, we can ensure everyone has a safe and fun 4th of July!



Highlights of our Community Budget Meeting

Last month I had the opportunity to host our Community Budget Meeting at our Mayfair Community Center. I am beyond excited and honored to share that our East San José, District 5 Community Budget Meeting was not only extremely well attended but had the largest attendance rate out of all our City Districts. Your voices were heard that day not just by me but by our Mayor Sam Liccardo and all the department heads there. East San José can no longer be ignored, your concerns were heard and have led to some great negotiations to help improve our district.

Some of the top concerns shared by all of you were;

1. Illegal dumping
2. Homeless encampment along Foss Ave.
3. Extended hours for Alum Rock Youth Center
4. Programs to help address the technology gap
5. More afterschool programs/options for our kids
6. Park Activation throughout East San José

Again a big THANK YOU to every organization, community leader, educator, business owners, residents, students for your support and input. We have been working extremely hard this budget season to address all your concerns and make East San José a force to be reckon with!



Warm regards/*Cordial saludo*

Councilmember/*Consejal* Magdalena Carrasco

City of San José, Eastside

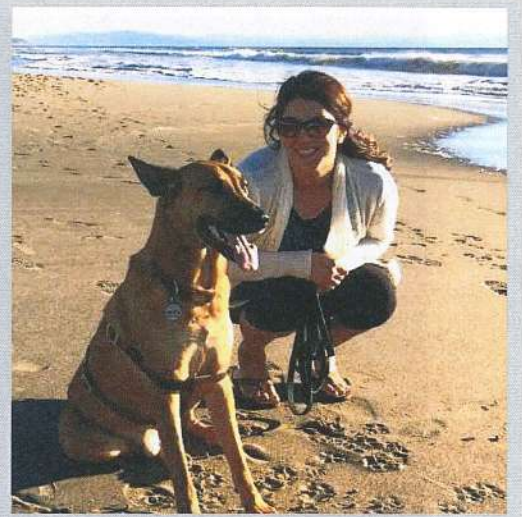
Please Welcome Dora Gonzalez to Our East San José Team

Dora Gonzalez is new to our team but no stranger to the City of San José. She began her employment at the age of fifteen with the Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services department. Since that time, she has worked for the City in a number of different capacities: Aquatics, Therapeutics, Recreation, Early Childhood Development, Fitness, At-Risk Youth

Services. Most recently, Dora was with the Office of Economic Development under work2future as a Training Specialist helping target workforce development programs according to labor market demands and growing sectors in Silicon Valley

Dora strongly values helping others and giving back to her community. She currently serves as a mentor for Gavilan Community College's Puente Program. The program serves first generation, low-income Hispanic college students. She has also interned for the International Rescue Committee and San Jose Mayor Sam Liccardo, during his term as a City Councilmember. During her time with the International Rescue Committee, she was heavily involved in helping undocumented immigrants apply for work permits through President Obama's Executive Order of the Differed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

Dora received her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Minor in Public Policy from the University of California Berkeley. She completed an International Relations Specialization from the Freie Universität Berlin in Germany. During her free time Dora enjoys hiking with her dog Buddy, traveling, live music, and trying unique food.



District 5 Business Corner

Are you a current or aspiring San José business owner, curious about possible resources? If so, I urge you to take advantage of our new Office of Economic Development website <http://sjeconomy.com/> featuring an abundance of information, small business statistics, imagery, interactive tools, ongoing news and events and success stories about San José! Think of this as your "go to" San José business development resources.

SAN JOSE
CAPITAL OF OPPORTUNITY

Foss Ave : Moving in the Right Direction

Foss Avenue is a small community located on a cul-de-sac bordering Interstate 680 and Alum Rock Avenue. This community has been dealing for more than a decade with a persistent homeless encampment filled with trash and human waste.

The homeless have set up their camp along the 680 ramp, which belongs to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans). Because the land does not belong to the City, the San Jose Police are not able to fine people for being on the property, and the City's Homeless Rapid Response team also does not have jurisdiction on the property, although they have still gone in to offer services.

Over the last several months, my staff has been working with Senator Beall's office, Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, the San Jose Housing Department, the Police Department, the Santa Clara County District Attorney's office, and the resident of Foss to clean up and maintain the area.

And we have finally seen some success! Caltrans came through on May 13, 14, and 15, cleaning up all the litter and trash left behind by the homeless, fixing the fence, and putting up new No Trespassing signs. The homeless have stayed away and there are now children playing at the end of the cul-de-sac and folks out strolling on their street.

My thanks to all the staff from the various offices who continue to work on finding a permanent solution to this problem and to all the Foss residents who brought this to our attention and who have not given up hope that their street can be the kind of place we all want to live.

BEFORE



AFTER



Thank You Ricardo Barajas!

At the Tuesday May 13th City Council meeting, I presented a commendation to Ricardo Barajas, an East San José resident, raised there.

On Saturday February 21st, Francisco Juarez, a hardworking East San José street vendor was killed in a horrible hit and run accident on White Rd., leaving behind his wife and three wonderful young boys. Without hesitation, Ricardo helped Francisco's family by creating a GoFundMe site that in the end managed to accumulate over \$14,000 for Francisco's family.

This was an incredible act of kindness showed by Ricardo for Francisco's family. Mr. Juarez was a complete stranger and Ricardo acted selflessly because he saw a need and was motivated to help through the simple kindness of his heart.

After graduating college, Ricardo went to work for the Department of Parks and Recreation for the City of San José. He began working for the Work Experience Program which offered summer jobs for low-income 15-24 year olds. Later, he began working for the Anti-Graffiti and Litter Program as a Community Activity Worker where he helped coordinate the City's Great American Litter Pick-up event and recruited and managed well over 5,000 city-wide volunteers. He later transferred to the Environmental Services Department assisting in the roll out of community engagement and public outreach plan for the Single-Use Bag Ban. This type of spirit of compassion that East San José best exemplifies. We are very proud to have such residents reside in East San José like Ricardo, demonstrating what carrying for our community and its members can accomplish.



With Mayor Liccardo and Ricardo Baraja

Congratulations to Our Star Soccer Players

On Tuesday May 19th, my City Council colleagues and I had the opportunity to honor two local celebrities in our San José soccer scene, Enrique "Queeks" Tovar and German Gonzalez who were born and raised in East San José. This past March, they not only represented East San José but the entire country on the international soccer stage. They both played for Team USA at the inaugural 2015 Arena Soccer World Cup. We are extremely proud that Enrique and German were selected to represent Team USA at this exciting competition.



With Mayor Liccardo, Queeks, German and family members

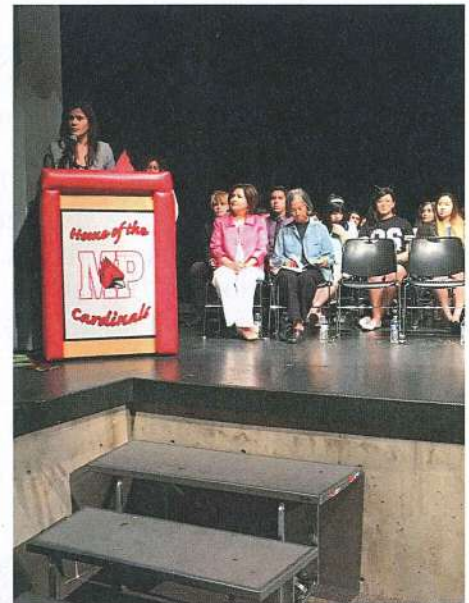
Along the way, they crushed Kazakhstan, El Salvador and Germany. They squeaked by Romania and the Czech Republic and advancing to the final. On that Sunday, March 29th, Queeks and German helped Team USA beat Mexico 5 to 3, in an exhilarating championship match. When Queeks and German are not training or a part of a professional Arena Soccer League team, they are out on the streets and parks of East San José training our youth how to be not only better soccer players but exemplary community leaders. Again Queeks and German, THANK YOU and CONGRATULATIONS on your well-deserved victory!

East Side Honors Night

What an honor it was for me to attend two Honors Nights for our East San José High Schools over the past month.

I had the privilege of speaking and congratulating the students and their families from Overfelt and Mt. Pleasant

High Schools for their academic achievements. When I served on the Eastside Union High School Board, my colleagues and I worked very hard to close the achievement gap and renovate our schools. The success of these students prove our Eastside students are a force to be reckon with. These events are an opportunity to celebrate, honor and recognize our next generation of Eastside leaders. I'd like to also recognize our Eastside staff and teachers who have been vital to these students' success. They could have not done any of this without their hard work, BUT also without the love and unconditional support of their families. Congratulations Class of 2015, for your grand achievements and inspiring future. Reach for the stars!



San José Library Summer Reading Challenge

As educators in the various school districts work to implement the new Common Core Standards, it is important that students continue to read while school is not in session. It is estimated that the school summer breaks will cause the average student to lose up to 3 months of instruction, with disadvantaged students being disproportionately affected. (Cooper, 1996). Researchers conclude that two-thirds of the 9th grade reading achievement gap can be explained by unequal access to summer learning opportunities during the elementary school years, with nearly one-third of the gap present when children begin school.

San José Public Libraries are presenting a citywide Summer Reading Challenge. A hands-on technology learning program that exposes youth and adult residents to opportunities to develop skills and access the hardware and software industries that are booming around them in Silicon Valley. The library's program last year showcased Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). They have added an A to include the Arts, STEAM. It bridges art and technology, art and science, as well as art and engineering. It combines reading, showing and making that emphasize science, technology, engineering, the arts and math.

The program is in need of student and teen volunteers. Volunteers will train parents how to download the app on their smartphones, register, and record the 20 minute sessions of reading or activity using the mobile app.

An innovative strategy like STEAM goes beyond the traditional Summer Reading Program. Yes they read but there are also activities on the card that show the participants other things that reading can help them do. For example; recipes, a bike ride, or a movie. These exercises foster communication, critical thinking and they are fun! It also encourages families to share the joy of reading as a family.

Registration begins June 1st. Get you children enrolled early so they can take advantage of this eight week program. For more information visit <http://www.sjpl.org/summer>

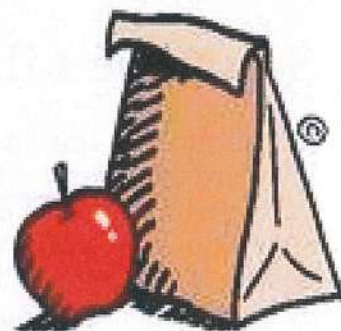


Library Summer Meal Program

Where do children who rely on school lunches go when school is out for summer? For many, lunch at the library provides a healthy meal and it keeps them engaged academically as well. For children in low income neighborhoods, the stability of a lunch ends when school is dismissed for summer vacation, but the Library Summer Meal Programs helps to provide children with a free healthy meal. Libraries are offering summer meals and programming designed to provide nourishment and help prevent the loss of instruction they obtained during the school year.

Libraries are community spaces usually in the heart of the community, so there is easy access for children to get to the locations. In addition to being free to all, it is a great opportunity to connect children to the Summer Reading Programs. It encourages them to set reading goals, engages them in activities that enhances the reading experience, and connects youth with librarians who can help guide their reading experiences. Summer Lunch Programs at the libraries in District 5 are for youth ages 2 - 18. An activity is offered at 11:00 am and lunch is served from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm. Sign up isn't require and lunches are for children only. Lunches are served:

- Monday - Thursday at Dr. Roberto Cruz Library at Alum Rock



- Wednesday - Friday at Hillview Library

Please contact Monica Kitchiner at (408) 535-4905 with any questions.

City of San José Boards and Commissions Vacancies

Do you live in San José's District 5 and care about issues affecting seniors including health, education, employment, housing, transportation & recreation? If so, currently we have open seats on our Library and Early Education, Downtown Parking Board and Historic Landmarks Commission. Last month, we appointed a new District 5 Youth, Parks and Recreation, Human Services and Senior commissioners to their respective City commissions. Vacancies happen regularly as well. Our City boards and commissions were established for the purpose of advising the San José City Council and providing ongoing input into policies and issues affecting the future of the San José community. For more information on Boards and Commissions, please follow this link. www.sanjoseca.gov/index.aspx?NID=328

A Message from Jesse Quijada, District 5 Youth Commissioner:

My name is Jesse Anthony Quijada and I currently serve as the East San José Youth Commissioner for the City of San José Youth Commission. As a lifelong resident of the City of San José I have always been driven to help my community, I first started participating in community service as an elementary school student when I volunteered at the Great American Litter Pick Up. From there a spark lit and I have always found ways to help do more for my community, fellow neighbors, and my peers. Many of my most cherished memories I have experienced were during times I was volunteering. When I first moved to East San José I was shocked to know that the Youth Commissioner seat had been vacant for so long and that the youth in our district were not able to voice their concerns, I have made it a goal as the East San Jose Youth Commissioner to hear as many youth voice their concerns. I plan to continue to work alongside the youth in our district to ensure them that I am doing as much as I possibly can, together I know we will help contribute to Councilmember Carrasco to help make East San José a better and safer place to live because East San José matters!!



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

CLEAN SLATE TATTOO REMOVAL PROGRAM IS ENROLLING

Are gang-related tattoos preventing you or someone you know from getting a job or moving ahead in life? The City of San José's Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program is now enrolling youth, ages 14 - 25, who want to remove their gang-related tattoos.

The Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program provides free tattoo removal and lifestyle alternatives to ex-gang members between the ages of 14 - 25. The program removes gang-related tattoos on exposed areas of the body - such as the neck, hands, wrists, and face - in exchange for the participant's commitment to education, employment and community service activities. Participants must be San José residents and are required to attend a life skills support group and complete community service hours.

Qualifying individuals who are interested in enrolling into the program or residents who would like more information are encouraged to call the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program office at (408) 794 -1660.

For details about the additional Youth Intervention Services, including the Clean Slate Tattoo Removal Program, please visit www.sanjoseca.gov/prns/youthintervention.



Get in on a no-cost program to dramatically cut your energy bills.

It's easy! Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) wants to help you become more energy efficient, so they hired us to be your energy advocate.

We do the work. You save on your bill.

Get started with a no-cost audit.

Our comprehensive audit shows you how you can save, with no obligation.

We make it easy.

We manage the entire job for you. Audit. Contractors. Rebates. Everything.

Low or no out-of-pocket costs.

Rebates cover up to 100% of the job cost, and are paid directly to the contractor.

Quick ROI.

Most installations pay for themselves in under 18 months.

Quality Guaranteed.

We inspect every job to ensure your installation is top notch.

Trustworthy.

As a nonprofit our agenda is simple: to reduce your energy use as cost effectively as possible.

Contact us now for your no-cost, no-obligation energy audit:

888-846-5050

svenergywatch@ecoact.org

www.svenergywatch.org

SILICON VALLEY
**energy
watch**

Stay Connected



Follow me on
twitter



[Forward this email](#)